

Off-Roading & Conserving Native Species

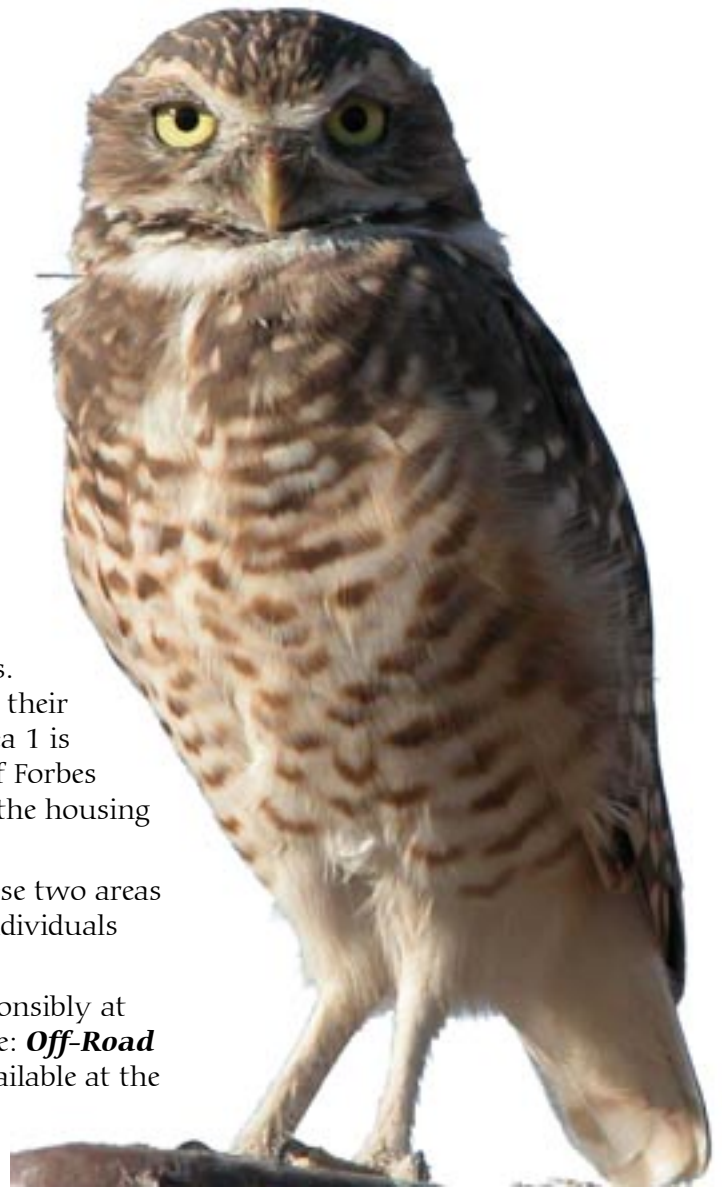
A Guide for Edwards AFB Residents and Visitors

Recreational off-road vehicle driving is one of the pleasures and privileges for Edwards base residents. But along with this privilege comes responsibility.

Edwards is a great place for off-road vehicles and is also one of the few protected homes left for many native species. To allow for residents' recreation and to protect species and their habitat, the base established two off-road vehicle areas. Area 1 is the Desert Wheels Motorcycle Club, located at the corner of Forbes Avenue and Lancaster Boulevard. Area 2 is located west of the housing area. **See the map on reverse.**

All recreational off-roading must take place in one of these two areas or on specific access routes. Base Security Forces will cite individuals found in areas other than these.

For more information on enjoying off-road vehicles responsibly at Edwards, please see Environmental Management's brochure: **Off-Road Vehicles on Edwards Air Force Base**. This brochure is available at the Housing Office, Outdoor Recreation or at Environmental Management. Contact the Environmental Management Customer Service Desk at (661) 277-1401 and they will mail you a copy.



Burrowing owls live in several areas on Edwards. They spend most of the day in underground burrows. They can be seen out in the early morning and just before sunset. Due to their small size, they are sometimes difficult to see. They grow to about 9 inches tall.

Preserving Native Species and Habitat

Irresponsible off-road vehicle driving could damage important habitat for many desert species. Environmental Management is especially concerned about two species that make their home close to the mobile home park. They are the burrowing owl and desert tortoise.

The burrowing owl is one of the smallest owls. It is a California State Species of Special Concern and both the birds and their active nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As their name suggests, they live in burrows. Burrowing owls are found throughout Edwards AFB, including near the Base Museum, south of the mobile home park.

The desert tortoise is a federally threatened species. This reptile seeks shelter by digging burrows. They can live almost anywhere on the base.

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Going off designated trails can destroy burrows for both species. Individual animals can also be killed.

Under environmental laws, anyone who harms or kills protected species is subject to civil and criminal penalties. In the case of the desert tortoise, the penalties can be up to \$50,000 and one year in jail (per count).

Environmental Management offers mandatory desert tortoise training for everyone who drives off-road. This training helps off-road vehicle drivers understand how they can play in the desert while protecting the desert tortoise and its habitat.

To schedule desert tortoise training or to find out more about either of these species, contact Environmental Management at 277-1401.



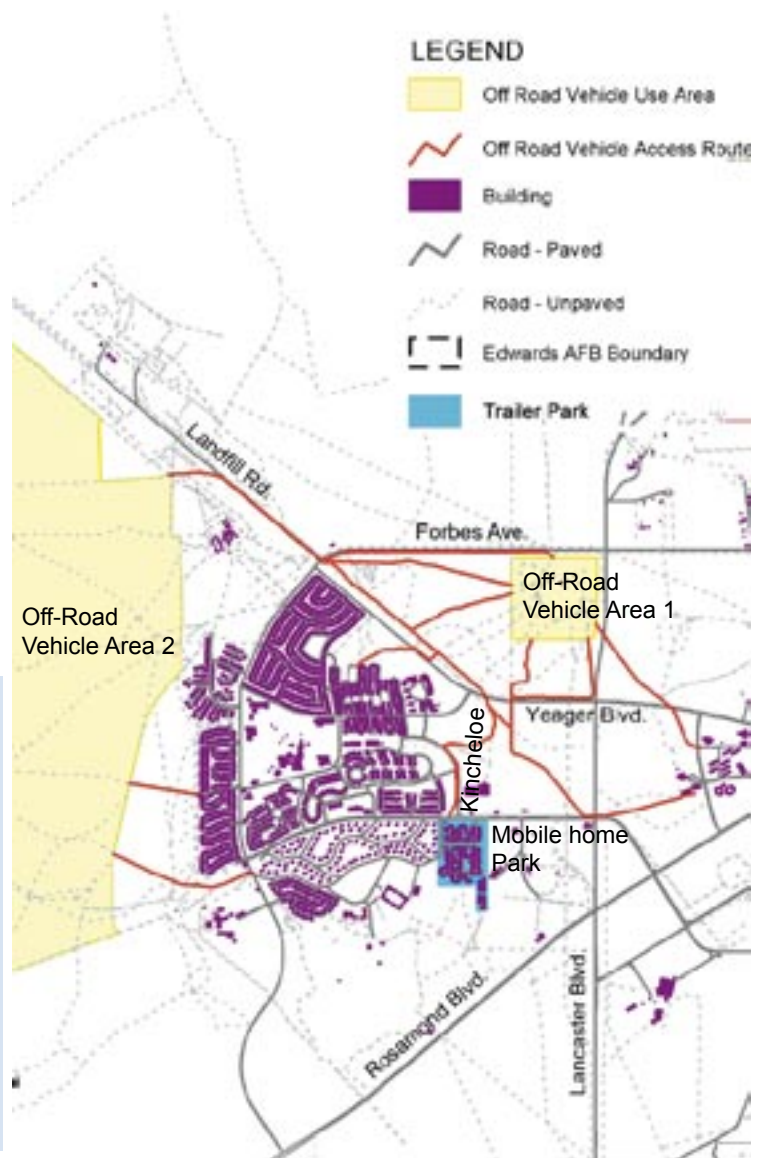
Although desert tortoises look pretty tough, running one over can kill it. This reptile is protected by federal law. Harming it can result in a fine of up to \$50,000 and a year in jail.



Desert tortoise burrows have this unique half-circle shape. Like many desert species they spend most daylight hours below ground. If a burrow is crushed, an animal could be killed.

Access Route for Mobile Home Park Residents

The only access route to either off-road vehicle area from the mobile home park begins just west of Kincheloe Avenue. It crosses Kincheloe Avenue onto unpaved trails at Community Drive, northwest of the Commissary. Trails lead to the Desert Wheels area off to the north and east. The trail to Off-Road Vehicle Area 2 is north of and parallels Yeager Boulevard to where it meets Forbes Avenue. Then it follows Landfill Road past the horse stables and west into the ORV area.



Environmental Management

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